

Acts 2 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Six: Peter and Jude – 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude

Skim 1 Peter 1-5.

- 1) What do the following verses reveal about the state of the believers scattered throughout the Roman world? 1:6-7; 2:12, 15, 19-24; 3:13-17; 4:1, 12-19; 5:9-10 Most likely, the timing of Peter's writing coincided with the beginning of the persecution of Christians in Rome under Nero (mid-60s AD). Although Peter anticipated increased sufferings in other parts of the Empire, the sufferings of those to whom he wrote were probably more social and religious than legal.
- 2) Summarize the significant teachings (doctrine) given in the following passages:
 - a) 1:2 Election of saints (by the Father's choosing) through sanctification (by the Spirit's work) for obedience (to Jesus, the Son)
 - b) 1:3-5 The Father of Jesus has mercifully given us new birth into a living hope, an inheritance in heaven that cannot be taken away, and shielding by His power.
 - c) 1:6-7 Trials come to prove that our faith is genuine and will result in Jesus' praise, honor, and glory.
 - d) 1:10-12 Old Testament prophets searched for insight regarding the timing and circumstances of Christ's suffering and glory and concluded it was not to be revealed in their day.
 - e) 1:18-20 Our salvation is precious and costly. Before creation, Jesus was chosen to shed His blood for us. We are privileged to live in a time where this has been fully revealed.
 - f) 2:21-25 Jesus suffered and died unjustly but did not retaliate. He bore our sins in His body that we might be healed. He is our example in suffering.
 - g) 3:18-22 (This is a difficult passage. Just look for the main idea.) Jesus the righteous died and was resurrected for us (the unrighteous) in order to bring us to God, clear our consciences, and return to heaven victoriously.
 - h) 4:12-19 When we suffer for being a Christian, we should commit ourselves to God, continue to do good, and consider ourselves blessed, because 1) at Jesus' return, we will be overjoyed at having participated in suffering along with Him, 2) by it, nonbelievers are acknowledging us as belonging to God, and 3) we are part of God's household, which reasonably ought to be the first to be judged.
- 3) From these truths (question 2), make a list of things for which you will thank God today. Circle or underline the one that is most meaningful to you at the present and note the reason. Answers may include: His choosing and work in me to conform me to Jesus; His merciful gifts of new birth, hope, an inheritance and divine protection; that He will bring good when I submit under suffering and that Jesus gave me the supreme example; that I am privileged to live in the age of the New Testament; that Jesus' death and resurrection have resulted in overwhelming privileges for me. Personal sharing

From 1 Peter 1-5:

- 4) Use phrases in 1:3-5, 8-9 to explain how salvation has a past, present, and future sense. Jesus accomplished (past tense) our salvation and gave us new birth through His resurrection from the dead (verse 3). Our salvation is also *present and ongoing* since we have a "living hope" (verse 3), are presently shielded by God's power (verse 5), and are receiving the goal of our faith (verse 9). Finally, our salvation is *yet future* in that it is our "hope" (verse 3), an inheritance kept for us in heaven (verse 4), and "coming...in the last time" (verse 5).

- 5) Having received this full perspective of our salvation, what encouragement does Peter give to those who are suffering? See 1:4-6, 21; 2:15, 21-24; 3:9, 17; 4:1-2, 13-14; 5:10. The fact that our salvation has already been accomplished gives us confidence in our suffering (1:6); it is finished and we are secure. Christ suffered and we ought to expect nothing less; we are “called” to suffer as He did (2:21; 3:9). In the present, God is “shielding us by His power” (1:5) and will “restore us” (5:10). Suffering for doing right means we are living according to His will (2:15). God uses suffering to sanctify us (4:1; 5:10). We have hope of future reward, an inheritance to anticipate (1:4-5, 21) when our redemption is made complete. (Answers need not be given from these three perspectives [past, present and future]).
- 6) According to the following verses, what should result from a solid understanding of our salvation?
- 1:6a with 1:8 and 4:16 Rejoicing in our salvation and our unification with Christ in suffering
 - 1:14-15 with 2:1-3 and 4:3 Obediently conforming to God’s holy standard
 - 1:22 with 3:8 and 4:8-10 Serving and loving one another deeply from the heart
 - 2:13, 15, 17 with 2:19 Submission to authority, even if it means we will suffer for it
 - 3:8 with 5:5b-6 Living humbly
 - 3:15 Being prepared to explain our faith to others
 - 5:7 Casting our anxieties on Jesus
 - 5:8-9 Living in a state of heightened awareness since our enemy is looking to destroy us
- 7) How does Peter encourage us to view our life on earth (1:3-5, 17; 2:11; 4:7)? What evidence can you offer as proof that you live your life from this perspective? We are to live as strangers in this world and with heaven in mind. Personal sharing

Read 2 Peter 1-3.

- 8) Having read about the threat of false teachers in chapter 2, which one word (contained in the following verses: 1:2, 3, 5-6, 8; 3:18) summarizes the means by which we can best avoid their traps? Where is this means found (1:12, 19-21; 3:1-2, 15-16)? Knowledge is found in the Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) and is the means by which we can recognize false teaching.
- 9) Which phrases in 2:1-3:4 describe the nature of the false teachers and their false ideas? False prophets (false teachers) introducing destructive heresies that deny the sovereign Lord (2:1); [Encouraging others to] follow their depraved conduct and bringing the way of truth into dispute (2:2); Fabricated stories (2:3); They are bold and arrogant, follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature, despise authority (2:10), and blaspheme in matters they do not understand (2:12); “They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish” (2:12); They revel in their pleasures (2:13); They left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam (2:15); They are springs without water and mists driven by a storm (2:17), with empty, boastful words... appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature (2:18); They promise freedom but are slaves of depravity (2:19); They are scoffers, saying, “Where is this ‘coming’ He promised?” They follow their own evil desires (3:3-4)
- 10) Review 2 Peter 3:17-18. Are there heresies within the Church today that lead people to live immorally? If so, what are they? One is the “health and welfare” heresy (that God is more interested in our happiness than our holiness). Another is the idea of salvation can be earned by works (while this causes many to give up in despair, others opt to strictly follow the letter of the law and by ignoring the spirit of the Law, excuse fleshly indulgences. Other heresies may be cited.

From 2 Peter 1-3:

- 11) Peter denounced scoffers who mocked the idea that a future “day of the Lord” was to come. What does Peter reveal about this “day” in 3:5-13? **The present heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire on the Day of Judgment.** The ungodly will be destroyed. This judgment has been delayed because God is patiently giving opportunity for many to repent. But that day will indeed come and its coming will take sinners by surprise. As God promised, after judgment, He will provide a new heaven and a new earth for the dwelling of the righteous.
- 12) Reread 2 Peter 1:3-4. What current temptation can you escape by claiming one of God’s “very great and precious promises”? Use any general Bible knowledge you have to find and name the promise. If you have trouble finding one, you might consider Isaiah 26:3, 28:16, 30:15; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 7:7, 10:32; John 6:35, 15:5, 16:33; Romans 8:1, 8:28-29; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 2:13, 4:12-13, 4:19; Hebrews 7:25 and 13:5-6. **Personal sharing**

Read Jude.

- 13) Which two verses summarize Jude’s reason for writing his letter and what was that reason? **Verses 3-4 explain that Jude wanted to write about salvation, but the presence of false teachers made the subject of contending for the faith more urgent.**
- 14) Compare the following pairs of verses. What thought or phrase does each pair have in common?
 - a) Jude 4 and 2 Peter 2:1 **The false teachers denied Jesus as Lord.**
 - b) Jude 6-7 and 2 Peter 2:4-6 **Imprisoned angels and Sodom and Gomorrah have been judged.**
 - c) Jude 8, 16 and 2 Peter 2:10 **The false teachers slandered celestial beings and followed their sinful desires.**
 - d) Jude 10 and 2 Peter 2:12 **The false teachers spoke against things they did not understand; they will be destroyed.**
 - e) Jude 11 and 2 Peter 2:15 **The false teachers took the ways of Balaam.**
 - f) Jude 12a and 2 Peter 2:13 **The false teachers feasted at the Lord’s table but were blemishes on it.**
 - g) Jude 12b-13 and 2 Peter 2:17 **The false teachers were like water and mist; dark judgment awaits them.**
 - h) Jude 18 and 2 Peter 3:3 **In the last days, there will be scoffers who follow their own evil desires.**
- 15) Jude gives exhortations about avoiding deceptive teachings in verses 20-23. Who do you know who needs to be mercifully snatched from the fire of deception? Will you pray this week for discernment in knowing how to do this and ask others to pray with you? **Personal sharing**